

Application No.: 10/816,474

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Docket No.: 590282000500

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on March 9, 2006, claims 1-93 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 36, and 65 have been amended. Claims 1-93 remain pending. Applicant request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

I. Amendment to Specification

Paragraphs [0037], [0086], and [0094] have been amended to include the serial number of the patent application referred to in these paragraphs.

II. Claim Rejections -35 USC 103

Claims 1-11, 13-17, 19-30, 33-46, 48-59, 62-75, 77-88, and 91-93 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,608,631 (the Milliron reference) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,067 (the Silva reference). Claims 12, 31, 32, 47, 60, 61, 76, 89, and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Milliron reference in view of the Silva reference in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0057569 (the Berger reference).

Independent claims 1, 36, and 65 have been amended to recite that topology information describing the topology makeup of the geometry encoded in the data stream is passed through the plurality of deformation nodes separate from the data stream without altering the topology information. Applicants assert that the Milliron and Berger references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest this claim limitation.

In particular, the Examiner states that "Milliron fails to specifically teach a head node, a plurality of deformation nodes and a tail node." The Examiner cites to the Silva reference as disclosing a plurality of deformation nodes. The Silva reference discloses using a set of modifiers. (Column 1, lines 58-59.) Each modifier modifies a portion of the definition of an object, with a subsequent modifier modifying the results of a previous modifier. (Column 1, lines 59-65.) The Silva reference, however, does not disclose or suggest passing topology information through the modifiers without altering the topology information.

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Thus, Applicant asserts that claims 1, 36, and 65 are allowable. Additionally, Applicant asserts that claims 2-35, 37-64, and 66-93, which variously depend from claims 1, 36, and 65, are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claims.

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III. Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 590282000500. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: June 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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